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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the High-level Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body 2/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided to change the name of the high-level meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as had been made for the high-level meeting.

2. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report 3/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Committee in plenary meeting and only one working group, and this practice has been followed in subsequent sessions.

3. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report 4/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

4. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report 5/ was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987 and its report 6/ was adopted on 27 May 1987. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-second session.

6. The sixth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989 and its report 7/ adopted on 29 September 1989. The General Assembly reviewed that report at its forty-fourth session.

7. The seventh session was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991 and its report 8/ was adopted on 6 June 1991. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-sixth session.

8. The eighth session was held in New York from 25 to 28 May 1993 and its report 9/ was adopted on 4 June 1993. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-eighth session.

II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

9. The ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 30 May to 2 June 1995.

10. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

11. The following States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Cambodia
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Ethiopia
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Kazakstan
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Syrian Arabic Republic
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

12. In addition, the representative of the Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, which is also participating in the work of UNDP, attended the session.

13. Members of the following department of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the proceedings of the session:

United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services

14. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Population Fund

16. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Telecommunication Union

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Universal Postal Union

World Bank

World Meteorological Organization

17. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

Latin American Economic System

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Organization of American States

Pan American Health Organization

Organizacion Internacional para Las Migraciones

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

18. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Union des Foires Internationales

Sistema de la Integracion Centroamericana

Organization Latinamericana de Energia

19. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/34/415, para. 7), and as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 34/117 of 14 December 1979, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited. The following were represented at the session:

Organization of African Trade Union Unity

All Pakistan Women's Association

Help Age International

International Association of Universities

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

International Council on Monuments and Sites

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations

Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement

Rehabilitation International

SIDI

World Assembly of Small & Medium Enterprises

World Muslim Congress

World Trade Centers Association

Society for International Development

Environmental Development Action in the Third World

Counterpart Foundation, Inc.

Centro de Estudios Economicos y Sociales du Tercer Mundo

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Hangzhou Regional Centre (Asia-Pacific)

Groupe de Recherche et d'Exchanges Technologiques

Capacity Building International Association, Inc.

Pax Romana

Help Age International

Earth Council

International Cooperative Alliance

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

20. The ninth session of the High-level Committee was opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the Administrator of UNDP, Mr. James Gustave Speth.

21. H.E. Mr. Soemadi D. M. Brotodiningrat, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs (Indonesia), was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

22. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/9/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/9/L.2). A general debate was held in the plenary meetings on 30 May-1 June on items 5, 6 and 7 for substantive discussion and recommendations in the Committee. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its ninth session, see annex II.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 3)

23. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-President: H.E. Momodou Kebba Jallow (Gambia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco Javier Berguido (Panama)

24. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Mr. Jallow should serve as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

(Agenda items 5, 6 and 7)

A. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

25. In his opening statement, the Administrator of UNDP noted that considerable progress had been made in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) as an instrument of multilateral cooperation, but much remained to be done to fulfil its potential.

26. The Administrator also noted the increasing globalization of production structures and the growing emphasis on the creation of a liberalized international trading regime, which had posed a number of challenges for the developing countries. Other factors such as greater reliance on market forces in preference to public intervention, the emergence of new States from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the conflicts involving peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts had also imposed new and urgent tasks on the international community, with the consequent pressure to reallocate resources, in some cases from traditional development goals.

27. Those new developments had stimulated an increased interest by developing countries in TCDC and South-South cooperation in general, with a view to ensuring a more effective and equitable participation in that newly emerging structure of international relations.

28. The Administrator stressed his belief that those considerations established the need to identify new and imaginative initiatives in order to ensure that TCDC continued to be relevant to developing countries in the changed circumstances of the 1990s and beyond. It was for that reason that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, had requested the High-level Committee to include in its agenda an item entitled "New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries".

29. In response to that request, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had prepared a comprehensive report on the subject, which recommended the adoption of a new substantive and operational policy thrust for TCDC in order to enable it to respond to current realities. The report emphasized strategic initiatives and closer integration between TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC). The strategic initiatives, however, should not be interpreted to mean that TCDC would not maintain its flexibility to respond to creative initiatives identified in the developing countries.

30. The Administrator stated that TCDC should not be seen as a substitute for traditional North-South development cooperation, but rather as a complementary effort. Strengthening the framework for multilateral development cooperation was needed, and TCDC must be seen as an integral part.

31. The Administrator noted that despite the tight budgetary situation of UNDP, it was important to strengthen the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among

Developing Countries as a way to respond to the decisions on new directions likely to emerge from the deliberations of the High-level Committee.

32. The Administrator noted also that at the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in September 1994, which had been held during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Group of 77/UNDP Award for TCDC had been launched in order to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Group and as a means to provide further incentive to the promotion of TCDC.

33. The Administrator concluded by noting that June 1995 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by UNDP of the decision on a new direction, which emphasized the importance of integrating government execution and TCDC into UNDP-sponsored programmes and the symbolism of that event coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

B. Highlights of progress reports

1. Introduction of reports by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

34. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries submitted for consideration by the High-level Committee the report entitled "Review of the progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission" (TCDC/9/2 and Corr.1); the report entitled "New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3); and the report entitled "Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (TCDC/9/4). Summaries of those documents, which served as the basis for the Committee's debate and its eventual decisions, are given below.

Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission Report

35. The report analyses information received from member Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system and selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations regarding activities undertaken to promote and apply TCDC during the period 1993-1994, and summarizes the emerging trends that appeared from the information provided.

36. Many countries reported that they had established national TCDC focal points, but that their activities were constrained by insufficient staff, financial resources, coordination within the Government and understanding of TCDC.

37. Some countries stated that they had not established a comprehensive national policy on TCDC, although the importance given to the issue was widely recognized.

38. A large number of Governments of developing countries indicated that TCDC featured prominently in bilateral exchanges in a number of areas, including technical, scientific, trade and educational cooperation.

39. Many countries undertook TCDC missions or arranged visits by TCDC national focal points to promote TCDC with some of them resulting in actual TCDC agreements.

40. On the issue of financing, the report indicated that a large number of reporting countries had made allocations for TCDC in their national budgets, some of them from their national indicative planning figures (IPFs).

41. Statistics on training activities, exchange of experts and equipment under TCDC arrangements provided an important criterion for measuring the extent of TCDC and indicated a broad range of involvement by developing countries.

42. While the developed countries reported very few cases of direct support for TCDC activities under bilateral aid programmes, some of the countries used training facilities in developing countries under their fellowship and training programmes.

43. The report noted a substantial increase in TCDC promotional activities supported by the United Nations system. Many of the organizations and agencies had assisted developing countries in organizing meetings, seminars, workshops, study tours, training programmes, the exchange of expertise and technology and the maintenance of databases.

44. UNDP, through its Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, utilizing special programme resources had played an active role in promoting and applying TCDC exchanges through a variety of modalities, such as matching exercises, subject-specific workshops, capacity enhancement, studies and evaluations, as well as promotional and sensitization programmes. In addition, the TCDC Information Referral Service database (TCDC-INRES) had continued to improve and simplify its presentation of data on institutional capacities in the developing countries and had moved to decentralize access to its information.

45. TCDC efforts had been supported by the various regional bureaux of UNDP, particularly under their regional programmes, utilizing an estimated $35 million during 1993-1994, including an estimated $5 million in resources allocated under the special programme resources.

46. The report indicated the importance given to the elements of the 1990 South Commission report, 10/ which emphasized policies in five areas: strengthening national commitment to South-South cooperation, the use of training and educational facilities in developing countries, the promotion of South-South trade, cooperation between enterprises in the South and the strengthening of food security.

New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

47. The report on new directions for TCDC was prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with the mandate provided by General Assembly resolution 49/96, requesting the High-level Committee to include the item in the agenda of its ninth session.

48. The report noted the significant changes in international relations that had taken place during recent years, especially during the 1980s, and pointed out that those changes had given TCDC great potential as an important instrument in realizing the aspirations of developing countries and as a means of ensuring their effective integration in the new global order.

49. The report recommended that, in the future, TCDC should adopt a more strategic focus by supporting initiatives in a number of high priority areas, such as trade and investment, debt, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination and aid management, which were likely to have a major impact on a large number of developing countries.

50. It also called upon a closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC.

51. Other main recommendations included the need to identify pivotal countries to serve as catalysts for promoting and implementing TCDC, the promotion of triangular cooperation arrangements under which donors agreed to fund exchanges among developing countries, the identification of subject-specific TCDC products, the expansion of TCDC-INRES into a multidimensional database, including information on several relevant centres of excellence, expert services and project experiences, as well as supporting the already existing institutional capacities in the developing countries.

52. At the institutional level, emphasis was placed on the strengthening of national TCDC focal points, restructuring of capacities and needs-matching exercises and the adoption of clearly stated national TCDC policies.

53. The report suggested that the High-level Committee should continue to serve as the intergovernmental entity responsible for TCDC. It proposed that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries be further strengthened in order to enable it to continue its role as coordinator for promotion and application of TCDC within the United Nations development system.

54. The report made specific recommendations, including consideration of a number of financing modalities in order to increase the allocation of resources for TCDC during the next programming cycle. It also recommended establishing links with non-governmental organizations and the private sector in order to provide a mechanism for their participation in TCDC activities.

55. A document entitled "Bandung framework for Asia-Africa cooperation: working together towards the twenty-first century" (TCDC/9/3/Add.1, annex, appendix), containing the conclusions of the recommendations of the Asia-Africa Forum held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December 1994, was also considered.

Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of UNDP

56. The report dealt with issues regarding the timing of future sessions of the High-level Committee, the implementation of guidelines for the review of policies and procedures of the United Nations development system on TCDC and organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC.

57. On the issue of timing of future sessions of the High-level Committee, since most of the organizations of the United Nations development system operated on a calendar-year basis and their reports of the previous years were only available in March, it had proved difficult for the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to include up-to-date information in its written reports to the High-level Committee. For that reason, at its eighth session, the High-level Committee had requested the Bureau to consider, on the advice of the Administrator, the possible adjustment of the timing of the High-level Committee in order to take account of that problem. However, having reviewed the various options, the Bureau and the Administrator had concluded that it would be preferable to maintain the current schedule of meetings of the High-level Committee, on the understanding that United Nations organizations could provide verbal updated reports to the High-level Committee in order to provide additional relevant information on their activities.

58. In terms of the implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system on TCDC and in pursuance of the decisions of the eighth session of the High-level Committee, a meeting of United Nations agency focal points had been held in July 1993. That meeting had decided that UNDP should emphasize a common system-wide definition of TCDC, a check-list of core policy elements, self-contained instructions of TCDC for staff and strengthening of internal systems for monitoring and review of TCDC.

59. On the question of supportive and organizational arrangements for TCDC, the report noted that because of the overall resource constraints, the special programme resources allocation for TCDC had been reduced by 30 per cent from the level of $15 million originally approved. For the period 1992-1996, the total resources available for the programme was $13.25 million, including $2.75 million carried over from the fourth cycle.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

60. The general debate started with a statement by the representative of the Philippines, who spoke on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He stated that great importance was attached to TCDC and South-South cooperation in general as a central aspect of multilateral development cooperation. The technologies, technical expertise and know-how of the developing countries were frequently more suitable for other developing countries because of the similarities they shared. Furthermore, the fundamental changes now taking place in the structure of international relations had reinforced the need for new directions for TCDC.

61. He endorsed the proposals contained in the report on new directions for TCDC (TCDC/9/3) for a more strategic focus on TCDC in order to increase the impact and effectiveness of initiatives in that area. That would require, inter alia, improvement of information systems regarding needs and capacities to facilitate comparison and linking, not only of the priority needs of countries, but also of their comparative advantages.

62. He expressed support for the priority areas identified, namely, trade and investment, debt, environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and science and technology. He endorsed the concept of demand-oriented human resource development and urged closer operational linkage between TCDC and ECDC, especially because TCDC could be an important instrument in promoting a wider pattern of economic cooperation.

63. He reiterated the need for the adoption by developing countries of comprehensive national TCDC policies in order to provide for a suitable framework for the promotion and application of TCDC activities and emphasized the importance of promoting national TCDC focal points as catalysts in furthering TCDC. He also supported the case for effective institutional arrangements and adequate funding for the new initiatives in TCDC.

64. The representative of the Philippines welcomed the launching of the Group of 77/UNDP award for TCDC/ECDC and the Japanese support to South-South cooperation initiatives. He also underscored the importance of maintaining the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the structure of UNDP.

65. Most delegations indicated their support for the views expressed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

66. The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of the European Union, reaffirmed the importance of TCDC and its potential for capacity development in the developing countries and for promotion of regional cooperation. She stated that the diversity now emerging in the developing nations should contribute to the sharing of development experiences and thus promote TCDC. TCDC should not, however, be limited to economic aspects of development and should cover other areas like social development or environmental protection.

67. The representative of France noted with interest the proposed priority areas for strategic initiatives and maintained that TCDC activities should be focused on clearly defined areas. She drew attention to the needs of the least developed countries and stated that strategic initiatives should be taken to benefit those countries as well. She supported the proposal for the compilation and dissemination of information on successes of TCDC.

68. She also welcomed the proposed increase in TCDC activities in the upcoming cycle as long as it did not reduce allocations for country programmes. She urged that all institutions dealing with TCDC should improve coordination of their activities. Finally, she maintained that TCDC merited additional support by the international community.

69. Most delegations noted the changed economic environment in almost all countries in which the private sector and non-governmental organizations were playing a greater and more important role in national development enterprise. They recognized the need for involving new economic actors, such as non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, academia, chambers of private sector businesses and industries, in TCDC in a substantive manner.

70. There was general agreement that despite the significant progress registered since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1978 many needs remained unmet and the full potential of TCDC remained unrealized. The changed global environment presented an opportunity to set TCDC on a new path and to intensify its activities. South-South cooperation had increased in various spheres, and TCDC on a bilateral basis had become a significant element in development cooperation. The TCDC modality could be viewed as an important lever for the empowerment of developing countries as it meant the use of technical resources of developing countries as agents of change in the development process of those countries. It was recognized at the same time that TCDC was complementary to traditional technical cooperation and would certainly not replace it altogether; but there was justification for enhancing the application of that modality more extensively in order to make the best use of the limited availability of aid funds.

71. Most delegations made the point that the primary responsibility for implementing TCDC lay with the developing countries and for that purpose various modalities of cooperation were being applied, including larger allocation of budgetary resources by the countries themselves. But almost all delegations singled out financial constraints as the major impediment to wider application of the TCDC modality. Numerous delegations argued for greater support from the developed countries and the international development and financial institutions. Some suggestions were made for greater financial contribution for TCDC from the private sector, and transnational corporations in particular. The idea of triangular funding, by which the financial resources of developed countries could be used to acquire the appropriate technical resources of developing countries in order to meet the needs of other developing countries, received universal endorsement from all delegations. Almost all delegations urged donor agencies and countries to broade. and expand the scope of triangular technical cooperation.

72. Some delegations pointed out that lack of understanding of the concept and objectives of TCDC hampered its application. The organization of effective national focal points and articulation of national TCDC policies were emphasized by many delegations as essential institutional underpinnings for expanding TCDC activities.

73. A great deal of emphasis was placed on optimal use of information technology for the promotion of TCDC. Most delegations welcomed the improved TCDC-INRES and supported its expansion into a multidimensional reference service. In particular the proposals for compiling successful experiences, preparing lists of experts and exchanging database with other systems in the United Nations development system received strong endorsement.

74. Several delegations alluded to the problem of poverty and the plight of the least developed countries. Marginalization of many less developed countries also drew attention. It was considered that TCDC should focus on those issues, which were of great relevance to a number of developing countries. The small island developing States initiative was welcomed in that context.

75. The subject of TCDC in the context of tackling the problems of the transitional economies was referred to by a number of delegations. The initiative of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was welcomed in that context.

76. Many delegations emphasized the importance of human resource development and the pivotal role that TCDC could play in it. Many delegations stated that education and training facilities available in the developing countries were being used extensively for improving the manpower of the developing countries. The exchange of experts was providing for upgrading the quality of public servants, business managers and technical personnel in those countries.

77. The subject of closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC drew considerable attention from most delegations. In that context statements were made in support of strengthening the role of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and institutionalizing greater collaboration between that unit and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Delegations maintained that challenges posed by the changing world situation warranted revitalization of TCDC and ECDC in an integrated manner.

B. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission

78. A number of delegations provided information on their TCDC policies and activities and others supplemented the information already provided in the report of the Administrator (TCDC/9/2).

79. A few delegations pointed out the difficulties being experienced in supporting TCDC activities owing to the resource constraints brought about by adjustment programmes, debt problems and a decline in the flow of external assistance. They made a special plea for expansion of the cost-effective TCDC modality with financial support from donor agencies and countries. The situation prevailing in some African and least developed countries was cited in that connection.

80. The representative of a trade union stated that, to make the nationals focal points for the TCDC work, the workers and trade unions, as well as the other socio-economic actors in each country, should be actively involved. It was also important that technical cooperation should aim at improving the quality of life of the people of the affected countries and lead to sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations development institutions should actively encourage and promote TCDC that

facilitate subregional and regional economic integration. They should avoid "the mistakes of the IMF and the World Bank, whose orthodox structural adjustment programmes, particularly in Africa, discourage economic integration, increase the poverty of the people, cause social instability, and prevent the active involvement and effective participation of socio-economic actors in the planning, negotiation, implementation, management and monitoring of structural adjustment programmes".

81. The emphasis placed on regional cooperation by developing countries in all regions, such as eastern and southern Africa, South Asia, Latin America as a whole, and Central America and the Caribbean in particular, was brought up by some delegations and in that context validity of the TCDC modality was reaffirmed. Delegations reported on their activities in the framework of regional cooperation groups and subgroups. A few delegations of intergovernmental organizations, like the Organization of American States, the International Organization for Migration, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Latin American Economic System and the Central American Integration System, also described their efforts in regional cooperation and economic integration.

82. Many delegations gave an account of their support for training programmes for personnel of developing countries and some countries acknowledged the contribution of donors in facilitating such programmes. A donor country delegation spoke of its third-country training and partnership programmes supporting training of developing country personnel by developing country trainers and institutions in some developing countries. Some intergovernmental organizations, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean region, also described their training programmes which were designed and executed in the TCDC modality. Indonesia announced its plans to establish a centre of excellence designated as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation. One delegation suggested that advanced centres of training and research should now be set up in the southern countries and the United Nations development system should assist such ventures. Several countries reported on the training of large numbers of personnel from other developing countries and also providing facilities for students in institutions of higher learning.

83. Some delegations regretted the lack of political commitment and the insufficient or declining capacity of national institutions standing in the way of expansion of TCDC. Many delegations asked for support from the United Nations development system in developing centres of excellence or at least helping established institutions with programme support. Some others referred to the lack of understanding of the concept of TCDC and the absence of clarity in respect of the design of South-South cooperation modalities. In that context the importance of strong national TCDC focal points and clear national TCDC policies was emphasized. Some delegations also suggested that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should help in the formulation of country TCDC policies. Some delegations commented on the structure, authority, role and strategic location of the national focal points.

84. Some delegations described their national cooperation programmes under which TCDC activities were undertaken and indicated increasing dedication of

national resources for TCDC. Some delegations also mentioned the various bilateral cooperation framework agreements and listed activities undertaken under them. Some countries stated that they were executing cooperation programmes with a large number of countries, in some cases up to 80 or 100. They also reported having various cooperation programmes covering many countries or with specific regional focus like Africa or Central Asia. The discussions clearly indicated a much higher level of actual TCDC than was generally observed or reported. It also reflected strong commitment to TCDC of some of the better-placed developing countries, such as the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Mexico, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Chile, Pakistan and Singapore. The importance of proper reporting was touched upon by a few delegations and the compilation of data on TCDC activities at the national level was strongly recommended.

85. Many delegations spoke of the value and importance of capacities and needs matching exercises and the publication of compendiums on needs and capacities. Some delegations felt that the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC activities should be done away with and all TCDC activities should be considered as activities of horizontal cooperation. Some delegations complained about the delay in the compilation of reports on capacities and needs matching exercises, which held up the implementation of accords. One delegation suggested that capacities and needs matching exercises should now consider joint ventures and should not be limited to technical cooperation activities. The value of country missions in making a capacities and needs matching exercise fruitful was mentioned as well.

86. Some delegations spoke of the need for a policy on the use of TCDC experts and welcomed the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as a propitious beginning.

87. It was noted that lack of financing or very limited financing was hindering wider use of TCDC experts where it could make a positive impact on development.

88. Some delegations referred to mainstreaming of women in development in TCDC activities. It was said that conscious efforts must be made to increase awareness of the importance of incorporating women in all development activities and for that purpose special programmes and targeted actions should be undertaken.

89. Most delegations sought greater support for TCDC activities by the United Nations organizations and agencies. Some delegations suggested the earmarking of more resources for TCDC and considered that umbrella projects were important instruments for the expansion of TCDC. However, there was an emerging consensus that developing countries should take action on a priority basis to expand TCDC.

90. A number of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system provided supplementary information on the high levels of support provided by them in promoting TCDC in operational activities. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) gave detailed statements on their TCDC activities. Most of those delegations emphasized the need for greater coordination of their activities. The

statements of agency representatives brought out a wealth of information on various TCDC activities, ranging from seminars and workshops, training programmes, use of experts and transfer of technology and experience, to establishment and support of networking and support to regional cooperation arrangements.

91. A large number of delegations referred to the five main points of the report of the South Commission relating to TCDC. The subjects most emphasized were the inculcation of a South consciousness, the promotion of joint ventures and measures for trade expansion.

92. Many delegations acknowledged the changes in the database and accessibility of TCDC-INRES and expressed the hope that its use would increase. The conversion of the database into a multidimensional storehouse of information, as reported in paragraph 14 above, was strongly supported by many delegations.

C. New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

93. The analysis provided and the proposals made for reorientation of present activities and new initiatives for TCDC were by and large supported by all the delegations that spoke on the subject, with many delegations focusing exclusively on the subject. The timeliness of the review and the new thrust at an opportune moment were widely commended.

94. The issue of strategic initiatives appeared attractive to all delegations. However, a number of delegations listed additional items under priority areas. In addition to the items listed by way of illustration in the report (e.g., trade and investment, poverty alleviation, debt, the environment, macroeconomic policy coordination, production and employment and aid coordination), other items enumerated were: reform and modernization of the State, human resource development (education and health programmes), development of local government, transfer of technology, rural development, small and medium industry, land conservation, rural energy development and tourism. It was also clarified that attention should be focused on selected priority themes in which cooperating countries would be interested and there would be no imposition from above or outside.

95. The idea of doing away with the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC also received general endorsement. More important, however, were the interventions of delegations on the closer operational integration of TCDC and ECDC. The gradual falling apart of the twin pillars of South-South cooperation was regretted by some delegations. There was a demand for a further exploration of ways of interrelating the concepts of TCDC, ECDC and South-South cooperation and creating what might be called a continuum of TCDC and ECDC. Some delegations asked for a strengthening of the relations between TCDC and ECDC and suggested that they should be considered in an integrated manner as two sides of the same coin. There was a call for greater coordination of efforts and activities between the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and UNCTAD and provision of some institutional linkage between the two.

96. Many delegations spoke on the small island developing States initiative, the Asia-Africa Forum (Bandung) initiative and the cooperation initiative of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the CIS countries and extolled their strategic significance and imaginative design. These were considered to be creditable innovations and a testimony to the potential of TCDC.

97. Another idea put forward by one delegation for promotion of TCDC was the organization of half-day sessions for case-studies on a country or a project basis consisting, for example, of a short presentation on an initiative by the representative of the country or United Nations body and then a brief discussion.

98. Trilateral cooperation or triangular funding of TCDC activities drew attention from virtually all delegations. It was generally agreed that TCDC was very cost-effective and in many cases the only appropriate cooperation programme for some specific purpose or objective. Some delegations expounded on some of the triangular arrangements supported by France, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The broadening of the concept and its wider use was strongly recommended by all delegations. Some delegations suggested that trust funds or special funds for specific programmes could be set up.

99. Another idea propounded in the report, which drew universal attention, was the involvement of the private sector and the civil society in TCDC activities. A few delegations asked for a study on how to incorporate the private sector in TCDC. At least two delegations stated that the private sector was already involved directly in TCDC. Another delegation supported the idea of national commissions on TCDC incorporating all interests. Some others felt that countries should find their own ways of involving the non-governmental and private sectors in TCDC policy formulation as well as operational activities. Suggestions for not overlooking interests of academia and research people, labour force and financial institutions were also made. A further point made was that while TCDC could be utilized more in the public sector, ECDC - the next step - was primarily a matter for the private sector.

100. The private sector was also considered by some delegations as a good source of financing technical cooperation activities between countries irrespective of whether it involved the private sector.

101. It was suggested by several delegations that the pooling of resources devoted to TCDC in a country would yield better use of resources and appropriate prioritization of cooperation programmes. Some delegations asked for greater allocation by developing countries of budgetary resources for TCDC.

102. One delegation asked for the enhancement of projects in the areas of joint product research for commercialization, initiation of specific ventures on new technologies and the pooling of expertise and resources for new ventures. That emanated from the perception of TCDC and ECDC as a continuum and de-emphasized the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC.

103. Most delegations welcomed the experts meeting on South-South cooperation and appreciated the close coordination between the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and UNCTAD in the planning and

organization of the meeting. In the changed context of the world political economy, it was considered very essential to look at the issue in all its implications and to review both the positive and negative elements in order to outline a plan for the future.

D. Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

104. Only two delegations spoke in favour of changing the present timing of sessions of the High-level Committee.

105. With regard to the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning TCDC, several agencies and organizations of the United Nations system gave an account of their programmes for sensitization of staff, priority areas for consideration of the application of the TCDC modality and new initiatives for promotion of TCDC. It was noted that the subject would be reviewed at the meeting of the agency focal points to be held the following week.

106. All delegations that took the floor emphasized the need for retaining the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the structure of UNDP. All delegations supported the strengthening of the Unit to enable it to meet the objectives of the new directions strategy. The intention of the Administrator to preserve the existing staff level and to provide for larger allocations in the next programming cycle was warmly welcomed.

E. Comments by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries following the general debate

107. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries expressed his gratitude to the High-level Committee for its endorsement of the recommendations contained in the document on new directions for TCDC (TCDC/9/3).

108. He noted the mandate given by the High-level Committee to the Special Unit for the adoption of more strategic orientations for TCDC in order to achieve a greater impact on developing countries.

109. He also noted the relevance given in particular to some aspects of the report, such as the adoption of national TCDC policies, the strengthening of national focal points and the promotion of triangular funding arrangements in support of TCDC.

110. He gave the assurance that the Special Unit would continue to consult with Governments, the United Nations development system and other relevant bodies in identifying creative and effective ways of implementing the recommendations on new directions for TCDC.

F. Other matters

111. In other matters, a number of delegations requested that the Bureau, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP, explore the possibility of arranging for several delegations, based on equitable geographical representation and an involvement in TCDC activities, to make presentations during the tenth session on their experiences with TCDC for a period to be specified by the Bureau.

112. The Director of the Special Unit for TCDC drew attention to the wide range of technical and specialized meetings as well as national focal point meetings, such as the one in Accra, Ghana, in April 1995. He considered that it would be important and distinguish between these meetings and the policy-making role of the High-level Committee. The Director welcomed the proposals made by the delegations and stated that the Special Unit, through its Director, would present to the Bureau further proposals and suggestions of Member States, the United Nations development system and other relevant bodies, as to the most effective manner in which those presentations might be made.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee

113. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 1995, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee. In its report, the Working Group recommended the adoption of three draft decisions. The three decisions were adopted at the 6th meeting. Two other decisions were considered and adopted at the same meeting. The texts of the decisions are reproduced in annex I to the present report (decisions 9/1, 9/2, 9/3, 9/4 and 9/5).

B. Views expressed following the adoption of the decisions

114. The representative of France reiterated the need for timely circulation of draft decisions in all official languages in accordance with the 24-hour rule.

C. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the High-level Committee

115. The Committee adopted decision 9/6 on 2 June 1995.

D. Draft report of the High-level Committee

116. The Committee authorized its Rapporteur to complete its report, taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

117. The Associate Administrator, in a statement delivered on his behalf by the Director of the Special Unit for TCDC, congratulated the President on his excellent work in guiding the conduct of the meeting and commended the Bureau for its able support, which had facilitated the work and permitted the delegations to express and exchange their views. He also expressed his appreciation to the delegations for the guidance they had provided during the session on TCDC policies and activities to be carried out in the future.

118. He noted that preparations for the session of the High-level Committee had been preceded by extensive debates and consultations among Governments, the United Nations development system and international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, on TCDC activities undertaken and ideas to develop new directions for TCDC.

119. He also noted the consultations carried out by the President and the Bureau on political, administrative and financial matters concerning the High-level Committee in support of TCDC activities.

120. The Associate Administrator noted the wide support received on the proposal on new directions and stated his intention to facilitate the implementation of the new mandate as expressed in decision 9/2 of the High-level Committee.

121. He stated that the decisions adopted at the session of the High-level Committee were not only an adequate and logical continuation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 and the decisions taken at the eighth session of the High-level Committee, but could also be considered a landmark in revitalizing TCDC. Among the key decisions were the priority issues of the adoption of more strategic initiatives for TCDC, the concentration of activities in relevant areas and the closer integration of TCDC and ECDC.

122. He reiterated the commitment of UNDP to strengthen the resources of the Special Unit to enable it to carry out its responsibilities and to respond to the decision on new directions that had emerged from the session of the High-level Committee.

123. The Associate Administrator had made specific proposals to strengthen allocations to TCDC during the next programming cycle. He emphasized that those recommendations were to be examined by the UNDP Executive Board scheduled to meet in the next few weeks.

124. The Associate Administrator commended the Secretariat for the hard work carried out in support of the session of the High-level Committee and expressed his appreciation to the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and his staff for preparing the documentation and for the services provided to the High-level Committee.

B. Closing statement by the President

125. The President closed the session by expressing his satisfaction with the positive results obtained and the high level of cooperation demonstrated by Governments as well as the United Nations development system.

126. The President noted the positive views expressed by delegations in the realistic and feasible recommendations made in the document on new directions for TCDC and requested the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to assist in the implementation of those decisions.

127. The President congratulated the delegations on the results achieved and thanked the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur, UNDP and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the members of the Secretariat for their important contribution to the successful conclusion of the session.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

5/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39).

6/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39).

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39).

8/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39).

9/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/48/39).

10/ New York University Press, 1990. For an overview and summary of the report, see A/45/810 and Corr.1, annex.

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its ninth session

9/1 Progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, 1/

1. Expresses satisfaction with the increase in activities of technical cooperation among developing countries reported by both developing countries and the United Nations development system;

2. Calls upon all parties in the development effort to give the highest priority to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992, giving first consideration to use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in their technical cooperation programmes;

3. Expresses the hope that greater commitment to the utilization of technical cooperation among developing countries will be promoted through the strengthening of national focal points and by increasing financial support for activities of technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Notes with appreciation the new approaches and strategic initiatives which have characterized the programme supported by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, such as the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, the Asia-Africa Forum initiative and the proposed exchange of experience between some countries of Latin America and some countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

5. Notes with appreciation the importance given in the activities of technical cooperation among developing countries to key elements in the South Commission report;

6. Urges all parties in the development effort to continue to accord high priority to these key elements, which include, inter alia, strengthening national commitment to South-South cooperation, the use of developing country training and education facilities, the promotion of South-South trade, cooperation between enterprises in the South and strengthening food security;

7. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and relevant intergovernmental organizations to continue to improve the quality and

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1/ TCDC/9/2 and Corr.1.

timeliness of reporting on the promotion and application of activities of technical cooperation among developing countries at subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

8. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its tenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

9/2 New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the importance of programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries as an instrument of multilateral development cooperation,

1. Welcomes the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 1/ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, and expresses its belief that the report constitutes an important contribution for the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

2. Recognizes the importance of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries in increasing the use of both technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries as dynamic instruments to support the development of developing countries and for expanded South-South cooperation;

3. Endorses, in general, the recommendations of the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries as an important means for harnessing the significant capacities which exist in the developing world;

4. Supports in particular the recommendations on adopting a more strategic focus for technical cooperation among developing countries and on selecting priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, transfer of technology and rural development;

5. Urges Governments and United Nations organizations as well as other institutions and entities in both the public and the private sectors, particularly in developed countries, to incorporate the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes for technical cooperation;

6. Calls upon Governments and United Nations organizations to consider increasing budget allocations for technical cooperation among developing countries and identify new funding arrangements such as triangular funding and private-sector funding as well as mobilizing contributions to ensure that adequate resources are available to implement the recommendations on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries;

7. Invites the Administrator to ensure that the Special Unit for TCDC plays a proactive role within the United Nations system in an effort to expand the application of technical cooperation among developing countries and

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1/ TCDC/9/3.

effectively implement the strategy for new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries while endeavouring to reduce the delivery cost of future programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries;

8. Calls upon the intergovernmental meeting of experts to be convened in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995 to take fully into account the report on the ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, with special emphasis upon the decision on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, and to propose recommendations for practical application of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries;

9. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its tenth session information on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

9/3 Overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decision 8/1, paragraph 2, in which it requested the Bureau of the High-level Committee to adjust the dates for submission of accurate and timely information by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations for the preparation of progress reports on implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/

Taking note of the report on the timing of future meetings of the High-level Committee, 2/

Taking note also of the report on implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries, 3/

1. Endorses the recommendation of the Bureau of the High-level Committee that the present arrangements and timing be maintained, providing to United Nations organizations and Governments the opportunity of presenting updated reports to the Committee;

2. Calls upon the agencies of the United Nations system, at the forthcoming meeting of agency focal points to review the status of the application of the guidelines, to further refine and improve the policies and procedures within the United Nations system and to prepare a report for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

3. Recognizes the essential role played by the Special Unit for TCDC in the promotion and expansion of technical cooperation among developing countries and its key position in the implementation of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, including the provision of information on centres of excellence in developing countries;

4. Reiterates the urgent need to maintain the separate identity of the Special Unit, and welcomes the reaffirmation by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of his decision to that effect;

5. Invites the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board to provide adequate staff and necessary support to the Special Unit for TCDC in order to enable it to carry out its responsibilities and to respond to the decisions on new directions for TCDC.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ TCDC/9/4, chap. I.

3/ Ibid., chap. II.

9/4 Strengthening Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

1. Welcomes the efforts of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to increase the allocation of resources to Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the commitment to support the work of the South Centre, and the pledge and commitment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for an expansion of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund's core capital;

2. Takes note of the Administrator's statement on the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations development system to support Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

9/5 Group of 77/UNDP Award for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee

Welcomes the establishment of the Group of 77/United Nations Development Programme award for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the occasion of the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Group of 77 in June 1994, designed to promote greater awareness of the importance of South-South cooperation and to support Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries activities.

9/6 Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its ninth session,

1. Approves the following provisional agenda for its tenth session, to be held in 1997:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the President of the session.

3. Election of officers other than the President.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission.

6. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:

   (a) Progress made in the implementation of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries;

   (b) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries.

7. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

9. Provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the High-level Committee.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report on the session.

2. Requests its Bureau, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to adjust the draft provisional agenda for the tenth session, as approved at the ninth session, taking fully into account the results of the ninth session, as well as developments relevant to technical cooperation among developing countries around the world, including at the United Nations and other important international forums. The draft provisional agenda should be circulated to all States at the latest three months in advance of the tenth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its ninth session

TCDC/9/L.1	Provisional and annotated agenda, including list of documents
TCDC/9/L.2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
TCDC/9/1	Status of pre-session documents
TCDC/9/2	Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission
TCDC/9/2/Corr.1	Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission
TCDC/9/3	New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/9/3/Add.1	Bandung Framework for Asia-Africa Cooperation: letter dated 7 April 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Japan addressed to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
TCDC/9/4	Reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of UNDP:

I. Timing of future sessions of the High-level Committee;

II. Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;

III. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

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DRAFT REPORT ON THE ANNUAL SESSION NEW YORK, 5-16 JUNE 1995

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The President, H. E. Mr. Zbigniew Maria Wlosowicz, opened the annual session of the Executive Board. He hoped that the Board would undertake fruitful discussions, despite the complexity and difficulty of some of the issues, and adopt decisions for meaningful and effective development cooperation.

2. He recalled that a number of informal consultations had taken place between the second regular session in April 1995 and the annual session and that the Bureau had met twice.

3. The President informed the Board that the section of item 6 on the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s would include a wider discussion and exchange of views on the overall programme of UNDP in Africa.

4. The Board was reminded that there would be no high-level segment at the annual session and delegations should thus avoid making statements of a general nature, addressing only the item under which they were speaking.

5. The Secretary of the Executive Board stated that all documentation listed in the provisional agenda (DP/1995/L.3) was available in all official languages. The report of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session (DP/1995/L.5), which had been adopted ad referendum at the conclusion of the meeting of the Committee (New York, 30 May - 2 June 1995), would be distributed. Under item 8, an additional document, containing the Declaration of Montevideo, adopted on 19 May 1995 by the Directors of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) (DP/1995/59), would also be issued. A conference room paper containing a decision adopted by the Programme and Budget Committee of the Industrial Development Board, transmitted by the Director-General of UNIDO, would also be made available.

6. In response to an informal request from delegations, the Secretary proposed that the Administrator's explanation of line 1.1.2 of Table 1 of DP/1995/32, be included in his statement on the Annual Report of the Administrator and the Future of UNDP, rather than issuing the information in a conference paper. The Board agreed to this procedure.

7. One delegation raised its concern about the lateness of one document in all languages. The Secretary responded that UNDP and UNFPA had made every effort to meet all deadlines mandated by the Executive Board in order to have documentation available on time in all languages and suggested that delegations refer any questions they had on this issue to the Fifth Committee.

8. The Executive Board approved the following agenda for its annual session 1995, as contained in document DP/1995/L.3:

Item 1: Organizational matters
Item 2: UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities
Item 3: UNFPA: country programmes
Item 4: UNFPA/UNDP: Reports to ECOSOC:
Follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199
Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)
Follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development
Item 5: UNFPA/UNDP: Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts
Item 6: UNDP: Annual report of the Administrator and related matters
Item 7: UNDP: Future of UNDP: Implementation of decision 94/14
Item 8: UNDP: Matters relating to the programming cycles
Item 9: UNIFEM
Item 10: UNDP: Technical cooperation among developing countries
Item 11: United Nations Office for Project Services
Item 12: UNDP: Human Development Report
Item 13: Other matters

9. The Executive Board approved the work plan, contained in document DP/1995/L.3, as orally amended.

10. The Executive Board approved the report of the second regular session 1995 (DP/1995/16).

11. The following dates of future sessions of the Executive Board were approved, ad referendum:

28 August-1 September	Third regular session 1995
16-19 January 1996	First regular session 1996
25-29 March 1996	Second regular session 1996
20-31 May 1996	Annual session 1996
3-6 September 1996	Third regular session 1996

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II. UNFPA: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

A. Annual report of the Executive Director

1. The Executive Director introduced the annual report of UNFPA for 1994 (DP/1995/24(Part I)). She reviewed selected financial and programme highlights, including information on income levels for 1994 and the projected resource situation for 1995. She emphasized that the Fund had increased its programme delivery considerably in 1994, noting a 50 per cent increase in project expenditure and a substantial increase in the resource utilization rate (from 77.5 per cent in 1993 to 90.6 per cent in 1994). She noted the Fund's commitment to improving the monitoring and evaluation of UNFPA programmes, and underlined the Fund's participation in the United Nations Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS.

2. Numerous delegations welcomed the substantive and analytical report. Many noted that the report clearly showed UNFPA participation in the post-ICPD process, as well as its commitment to translating the recommendations of the Programme of Action into actions at the country level. Several delegations noted with satisfaction the technical consultations with the relevant funds and specialized agencies, notably International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Children's Fund. Several noted, however, that the regional post ICPD consultation on Africa seemed to raise numerous questions but did not provide answers. Several others commended the section on Africa as a good analytical model to emulate.

3. A number of delegations welcomed the 20.8 per cent increase in income over that in 1993 and were pleased with the reduction in carry-forwards and the increase in the resource utilization rate. Several delegations noted that it was important for UNFPA to ensure that it had the capacity to manage these increased resource flows effectively. In that regard, a number of delegations welcomed the Fund's efforts to enhance the managerial skills of its staff through training and to increase the use of information technologies to improve databases and management information systems. Many also welcomed the Fund's efforts to strengthen its internal management audit capability.

4. A number of delegations expressed concern at the small decrease in the proportion of allocations to priority countries and sought clarification as to the reasons for that. One asked if the large carry-forward had distorted the ratio; another asked if the UNFPA intercountry programme had contributed to this decrease. Several others asked why the Fund's distribution of resources did not reflect the fact that over 50 per cent of the Fund's priority countries were in Africa.

5. A number of delegations welcomed the increase in national execution and encouraged the Fund to continue the trend in future. Several asked, however, why the proportion for 1993 was lower than that in 1994. One delegation asked if UNFPA included projects executed by national NGOs in its figures on national execution. Several others asked why the proportion for UNFPA execution was substantial.

6. Several delegations welcomed the open discussion in the document on evaluation. One agreed with the evaluation of the Fund's technical support services/country support team system, which was found to be a major improvement over the previous system of regional advisers. He noted that that kind of review should lay the basis for strengthening the Fund's technical input in designing and implementing country programmes. Several delegations emphasized the need for a results-oriented approach to evaluation; others asked how UNFPA followed up on its evaluations.

7. A number of delegations, citing the findings of the evaluation on the local production of contraceptives, noted that the production of contraceptives locally was one of the most effective ways of helping countries to become self-reliant in the area of contraception. They therefore encouraged UNFPA to continue to support such activities by providing both financial and technical support. One delegation asked if UNFPA should not redefine its role in that area, playing the role of facilitator rather than supporter and bringing together investors from different sectors, including the private sector.

8. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their comments on the report. She agreed that it was important for UNFPA to manage resource flows effectively and to improve monitoring and evaluation. That was one of the main reasons why the Fund planned to establish a programme audit as part of its monitoring system. She further agreed that evaluations should be results-oriented and include both qualitative and quantitative indicators in order to measure programme impact and achievement.

9. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) explained that the decrease in the proportion allocated to priority countries was due primarily to political instability in a number of these countries. In many cases, the Fund had formulated projects and prepared to implement them but could not because of the political situation in some of the countries. The Executive Director added that the Fund at times had to re-allocate resources from countries that were experiencing difficulties to those that were successfully implementing their programmes. She noted that the intercountry programme was not a factor in the decrease in the proportion to priority countries since the figure for priority countries was expressed as a percentage of country programme allocations.

10. The Executive Director stressed that Africa was indeed of particular concern to UNFPA. That could be seen in the dramatic increase in UNFPA resources, in both absolute and percentage terms, to Africa over the past decade. In 1984, allocations to Africa accounted for less than 19 per cent of the Fund's total allocations and amounted to $25.0 million. In 1994, those figures were, respectively, 31.1 per cent and $86.5 million. The corresponding figures for Asia were 46 per cent and $61.3 million in 198% and 31.5 per cent and $87.7 million in 1994. Moreover, the Fund's proposed work plan for 1996-1999 projected a substantial average annual increase for Africa over the work plan for 1995-1998, from $53.9 million to $72 million.

11. The Executive Director noted that the questions raised during the regional consultation on Africa provided a good example of the complexity and sensitivity of the issues facing Africa and how to address them. She noted that the dialogue with government officials on these sensitive issues had been an extremely fruitful one and had pointed out the vital role of advocacy in the Africa region. She stressed therefore that the questioning process in and of itself had been a useful exercise.

12. The Executive Director noted that the figures for national execution did in fact include projects executed by national NGOs. She thought it might be useful therefore if in future UNFPA gave the breakdown for execution for national NGOs. She said that there were two reasons for the difference in the percentages between 1993 and 1994. The first was that the figure for 1994 was an allocation and the figure for 1993 was an expenditure. The second was primarily the result of an accounting procedure. She explained that UNFPA execution included a substantial amount of procurement of commodities and equipment for government-executed projects. It therefore was not UNFPA execution per se, but procurement assistance to Governments.

13. With regard to the local production of contraceptives, the Executive Director explained that UNFPA was redefining its role in that area. She said that the Fund did not have the technical capability to provide technical assistance for such activities and thus was in the process of identifying agencies and organizations that could. She said that the Fund would support activities in that area provided they were totally underwritten by governments and/or other donors, including the private sector.

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II. UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

B. Programme priorities and future directions

1. In her introduction to the report on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD (document DP/1995/25 and Corr. 1), the Executive Director noted that the selection of the programme priorities proposed in the report had taken into account the Fund's experience and comparative advantage and had been guided by the concerns and recommendations of various internal and external evaluations, as well as the comments of Board members. She reiterated the Fund's commitment to work closely with other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, as well as with bilateral and non-governmental organizations. She briefly reviewed the Fund's operational strategy as well as its strategy for resource allocation. She concluded by noting the two proposed institutional adjustments that were particularly important to UNFPA: the change in designation of UNFPA Country Directors to UNFPA Representatives; and the establishment of a separate Executive Board for UNFPA.

2. Before opening the floor for discussion, the President of the Executive Board invited the Assistant Administrator of UNDP to make a statement on behalf of the Administrator. The Assistant Administrator informed the Board that the Administrator strongly supported the agreement between UNDP and UNFPA to designate UNFPA Country Directors as UNFPA Representatives. He said the Administrator firmly believed that such action would further strengthen the resident coordinator system at the country level.

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3. As suggested by the President, the Executive Board decided to discuss document DP/1995/25 in two parts: programme priorities; and operational strategies, including resource allocation and institutional adjustments.

Summary of the discussion

Programme priorities

4. A total of 30 delegations took the floor during the discussion on UNFPA programme priorities. Most noted that the document was an excellent basis for discussion on UNFPA future programming and its role in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

5. There was broad-based support among the members of the Executive Board for the UNFPA proposal to concentrate its future funding in three programme areas, namely, reproductive health, including family planning; population policy; and advocacy. Most delegations welcomed the approach and were of the opinion that, with some refining and given the UNFPA comparative advantage, such a shift in policy direction would result in a more strategic focus of UNFPA programming and also strengthen the Fund's ability to assist developing countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

6. Some delegations raised questions on how the three programme areas would be operationalized. They also sought further elaboration on the different components that would make up the three programme areas. One delegation emphasized that support for the new programme areas should not lead to the marginalization of other important areas of UNFPA work and that a comprehensive approach to the issue of population and development was essential.

7. A number of delegations felt that the document placed too much emphasis on reproductive health, including family planning, at the expense of the other two programme areas. They recommended that UNFPA should be flexible in allocating resources among those three programme areas by taking into account the specific situation and needs of each country.

8. Several delegations emphasized the need to empower women to enable them to become full participants in, and beneficiaries of, population and development efforts. One delegation urged the Fund to cooperate with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the issue of women's empowerment. Another recommended that the Fund should give priority attention to the empowerment of women and consider this issue as a separate programme area. Yet another encouraged the Fund to support efforts that ensured women's involvement in solving population problems.

9. A number of delegations noted the need for consistency in the use of terminology in the area of reproductive health. They therefore recommended that the Fund use the exact language from the ICPD Programme of Action in that respect, namely, "reproductive health, including family planning". Several delegations also stressed the fact that since family planning was an integral component of reproductive health, it should be dealt with within the context

of reproductive health care. One delegation, noting the absence in the document of a comprehensive analysis of UNFPA comparative advantage in the field of reproductive health, asked that it be elaborated on in a revised document.

10. Most delegations generally welcomed the incremental and pragmatic approach towards reproductive health care that built on the system currently in place and took into account the specific situation in each country. One delegation stressed, however, that although the incremental approach was interesting and useful the overall goal should remain a comprehensive approach to reproductive health. Another stressed that family planning and safe motherhood were still main areas for UNFPA assistance and that the concept of reproductive health should be further defined in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

11. The importance of monitoring the expenditures in the so-called population package of the ICPD Programme of Action was stressed by one representative. He also encouraged the Fund to support the reproductive health needs of refugees and displaced persons and to collaborate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other multilateral and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field. He further suggested that the Fund give greater priority to the development of method-specific information for clients, particularly on the side-effects of various contraceptive methods.

12. In the area of population policy, several delegations felt that the title of the programme area was too narrowly formulated, noting that the development aspects of population were missing in such a formulation. One delegation therefore suggested using "population and development strategies" in place of "population policy". Since research constituted an important activity in all three proposed programme areas, and particularly in the area of population policy, several delegations suggested that UNFPA identify centres of excellence in developing countries to collaborate in, and/or carry out, the necessary research. Also, some delegations recommended that national experts be invited to participate in international training programmes.

13. In the area of advocacy, a number of delegations urged the Fund to be a strong advocate in the areas of reproductive rights, gender equality, women's education, child survival, elimination of harmful practices against women, the role of men, unsafe abortions, and the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents. One delegation supported the Fund's proposal to provide assistance for women's micro-enterprises, but suggested that UNFPA allocate resources only for those initiatives that had a direct link to population programmes. Another delegation recommended that UNFPA use its advocacy role to ensure that all actors involved in the implementation of the Programme of Action assumed their share of the responsibilities.

14. One delegation observed that the document did not adequately describe UNFPA strategy and role in the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Another noted that UNFPA support in the area of HIV/AIDS should be more clearly defined, as should its strategies for integrating HIV/AIDS prevention activities into the Fund's programme.

15. A number of delegations expressed concern about section II of the report on principles. Many felt that UNFPA should endorse the whole set of principles set forth in the ICPD Programme of Action, and in chapter II in particular, rather than single out certain principles as the basis for future UNFPA programming. Some delegations also raised questions about the UNFPA mission statement. Although most welcomed such an initiative, some felt that the Executive Board should be apprised of the statement.

Operational strategies, including resource allocation and institutional adjustments

16. A total of 16 delegations took the floor during the discussion on the proposed operational strategies and a new system for the allocation of resources. Delegations generally supported the development of a new system for resource allocation although a number of delegates expressed reservations. Most felt that more study and discussion was needed before a decision on a new system of resource allocation could be taken. Some feared that the proposal would violate the principle of universality; others expressed concern about the rise in the GNP threshold from $750 to $1,000 in the new system as a criterion for assistance and therefore could not support the proposal.

17. One delegation, supported by others, suggested using adherence to the principles in the ICPD Programme of Action as an additional criterion for resource allocation. Another proposed adding HIV/AIDS prevalence as a criterion. Yet another suggested using the overall literacy rate as an indicator, rather than just female literacy, since both men and women played a role in decision-making regarding family planning.

18. Several delegations felt that any new system should ensure that the bulk of the Fund's resources should be allocated to the least developed countries (LDCs) and to African countries in particular. Others stressed the need to extend temporary assistance to the countries with economies in transition. A number of delegations objected to giving priority to certain regions and suggested that support and assistance should be given to any country in need regardless of the region to which it belonged.

19. Although many delegations underscored the important role of NGOs in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, several expressed concern about the selection of NGOs in implementing population and development programmes. Many felt that such selection should be carried out only in close consultation with Governments. One delegate stressed that the UNFPA guidelines on collaboration with the non-governmental sector should give the Fund greater flexibility in the area. Another noted that UNFPA should identify those NGOs that had a comparative advantage in each of the three programme areas. Others wanted to know about UNFPA plans to involve the private sector in population programmes. One delegation suggested that UNFPA take the lead in developing a global partnership between Governments, NGOs and the private sector.

20. Many delegations underlined the importance of inter-agency collaboration and harmonization at the country level, and welcomed the Fund's initiatives and efforts in that area. Several delegations stressed that efforts to

harmonize strategies between the United Nations system and Governments through the country strategy notes (CSNs) was important, emphasizing that such coordination should take place primarily at the country level. They recommended, therefore, that a revised document should clearly spell out the different roles of the actors involved.

21. A large number of delegations expressed their support for designating the UNFPA Country Director as UNFPA Representative, noting that such a measure would greatly enhance the visibility of UNFPA at the country level, strengthen the UNFPA role in inter-agency coordination and strengthen the resident coordinator system. They welcomed the full support in that regard and sought the Executive Director's assurances that such a change in designation would not alter existing arrangements between UNDP and UNFPA in the field or have any budgetary implications. Two delegations expressed reservations about such an arrangement, noting that it was not in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162. They worried that such a change might lead to greater fragmentation, rather than greater coherence, of the resident coordinator system.

22. Some delegations voiced their support for the establishment of a separate Executive Board for UNFPA, while others did not find reasons to support such a proposal at that time. Most delegations, however, noted that the upcoming session of the Economic and Social Council was the appropriate forum in which to discuss the issue. Several delegations also spoke on the issue of joining the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy. While some supported the proposal, most delegations felt that they did not have adequate information on the functioning of the committee to make a decision at that time.

Response of the Administration

23. The Executive Director thanked Executive Board members for their generally positive support for the UNFPA proposals. She agreed that the Fund should be consistent in the use of terminology in the area of reproductive health and assured the Board that UNFPA would adhere to the exact language used in the Programme of Action. She also agreed with the change in designation of the second programme area from "population policy" to "population policy in development strategies". She explained that UNFPA had highlighted certain principles in section II of the report, not because the Fund felt that those principles were more important than the other principles set forth in the Programme of Action, but because they had particular relevance to the work of UNFPA. She pointed out in that regard that the chapeau paragraph in section II of the report clearly stated that all activities in UNFPA-assisted programmes would be undertaken in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Programme of Action.

24. With regard to operationalizing the concept of reproductive health, the Executive Director noted that UNFPA was currently working with WHO and UNICEF in that regard. Moreover, the Fund was reviewing its country programmes to see how such programmes could be adapted to a reproductive health approach. Concerning the proportion of resources earmarked for reproductive health care, the Executive Director stressed that it was a global figure, which was more or less in line with current allocations to family planning and associated

information, education and communications activities. She assured Executive Board members that UNFPA would continue to tailor its assistance to the specific needs of individual countries.

25. With regard to the issue of inter-agency collaboration and the comparative advantages of the different United Nations agencies and organizations, particularly in the area of reproductive health, the Executive Director informed the Executive Board of the progress that had been made by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. One of the objectives of the task force was to define the comparative advantages of the agencies in the different areas of the Programme of Action. She promised to keep the Board informed on developments in the inter-agency task force and agreed with the suggestion that the Fund's annual report include a section on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

26. With regard to UNFPA's policy in the area of HIV/AIDS, she reiterated the Fund's strong commitment to the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS, noting that UNFPA had been one of the first organizations to second a staff member to the secretariat of the Programme.

27. With regard to the proposed system for the allocation of resources, the Executive Director admitted that there were limited data available for some of the criteria. It was of utmost importance, therefore, to support initiatives to collect and refine data on such indicators. She said that UNFPA was open to the suggestion to use the $750 figure instead of $1,000 as the threshold for GNP. She reminded Executive Board members, however, that the new system was intended as a proposal and that more analysis was required to elaborate the system. She assured Board members that the Fund would take into account the comments made during the discussion, and said that the Fund would organize informal briefings for Board members before submitting a final proposal to the Board for its approval. The earliest the Fund could expect to submit such a proposal to the Board would be the first regular session 1996.

28. The Executive Director reiterated that UNFPA was fully committed to increasing its allocations to LDCs in general and to African countries in particular. She stressed that the Fund expected the LDCs to benefit most from the proposed strategy for resource allocation. She also noted that the Fund would continue to provide temporary assistance to countries with economies in transition, as called for in the Programme of Action. She agreed that UNFPA had a major role to play in mobilizing resources, both domestic and external, for population programmes and the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and assured Board members that the Fund was committed to the principle of universality.

29. With regard to the issue of designating the UNFPA Country Director as UNFPA Representative, the Executive Director reiterated that such an arrangement would not have any budgetary implications or alter the current arrangements with UNDP at the country level and would be implemented within the context of and fully support the resident coordinator system.

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II. UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

C. Work plan and financial implementation of programmes

1. The Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) introduced the work plan for 1996-1999 and request for programme expenditure authority (document DP/1995/26) and the Status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects approved by the Governing Council and the Executive Board (document DP/1995/27). He pointed out that UNFPA income from regular resources in 1994 had increased by 20.8 per cent over that in 1993. He emphasized that UNFPA not only had spent its 1994 income in full, but had also significantly reduced carry-forwards from 1993 to 1994. He explained that the calculation of income projections contained in the work plan for 1996-1999 was based on the assumption of an annual United States contribution of $55 million and an 8 per cent increase per year in contributions from other donors. Concerning the distribution of programmable resources, he pointed out that the 33 per cent increase in absolute amounts provided to sub-Saharan Africa constituted the only significant change from the 1995-1998 work plan. He also emphasized that UNFPA was on target with regard to the financial implementation of its country programmes, but would need additional resources in order to provide the full amount required for those programmes.

2. Many delegations noted with appreciation the increase in the income of UNFPA and welcomed the improvement in resource utilization in 1994. However, some delegations felt that the carry-forward was still too high and urged UNFPA to take steps to resolve this situation. Several delegations voiced concern about the calculations used for the 1996-1999 income projections, which they considered too optimistic in light of the uncertainty of the contribution of one major donor and recent decreases in development assistance from some major donors. One delegation suggested that UNFPA should more actively pursue non-traditional channels of funding, and another sought information on the financial aspects of South-South cooperation.

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3. Several delegations, noting that a greater proportional increase in the share of resources for sub-Saharan Africa would be desirable, recommended revising the regional distribution of resources accordingly before adopting the work plan. Others, however, cautioned against such ad hoc revision of the work plan without careful analysis of the rationale and implications of a different allocation of resources by region. After a brief discussion, Executive Board members agreed that the issue of regional distribution, including the share of resources for Africa, should be reviewed in light of the future resource allocation strategy of UNFPA. The new strategy, which would be discussed by the Board at its first regular session 1996, should then be used as the basis for the next annual work plan. One delegation also suggested that the work plan should be revised to reflect the new programme priorities of UNFPA.

4. Concerning financial implementation, many delegations requested more analysis of the factors which account for variations in the implementation rates of country programmes. Several noted the lower overall implementation rates in African countries and requested explanations for the slow progress.

5. The Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) thanked the Executive Board for the positive comments on the improved resource utilization rate of UNFPA and confirmed that UNFPA would continue its efforts to reduce the carry-forward amounts. He explained that the estimate of an annual 8 per cent increase in donor contributions was derived from the income patterns for the 1985-1994 period, which showed an average 9 per cent increase per year. Thus, UNFPA considered the income projections in the 1996-1999 work plan as realistic. He also emphasized that the work plan, as a rolling plan, was revised annually and submitted to the Board. Thus, adjustments could be made immediately should a drastic shortfall in contributions occur. He further explained that UNFPA was pursuing non-traditional sources of funding, especially in the private sector, but that results thus far had been marginal. With regard to South-South cooperation, he stated that the relevant financial data were included in UNFPA country and intercountry programmes.

6. In response to questions concerning the allocation of resources by region, the Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) confirmed that the criteria used for the relevant calculations were taken from Governing Council decisions regarding the priority country system and other indicators for allocation, including those regarding programme areas. He stressed that the next work plan would reflect the new resource allocation strategy to be adopted by the Executive Board. Similarly, the new programme priorities would be used once a final decision had been taken by the Board. He reiterated that the increase from $54 million to $72 million per year in absolute terms for assistance to sub-Saharan Africa was considerable. Since a larger proportional share would imply a further redistribution of resources from other regions, such a revision would require the careful consideration of the Board.

7. With regard to the implementation rates, he noted that the present document was intended to provide an overview, as requested by the Governing Council in previous years. However, if desired by the Executive Board, UNFPA would be pleased to include in future work plans an analysis of the factors that determined the implementation rates for the individual country programmes.

8. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) explained that the unpredictability of income inflows impeded the smooth execution of programmes, which in turn accounted for some of the variation in implementation rates. He noted that UNFPA had undertaken a number of initiatives to increase implementation rates in 1994. These included, among others, abolishing country ceilings, to allow for the full allocation of resources within the approved country programme, and requiring quarterly expenditure reports from all country offices, to enable UNFPA to review expenditure levels and to transfer resources between programmes accordingly.

9. The Executive Board adopted the folowing decision:

95/16. UNFPA work plan and request for programme expenditure authority

The Executive Board

1. Endorses the Executive Director's programme resource planning proposals set out in paragraphs 7 to 15 of document DP/1995/26, while taking fuly into account paragraph 4 of decision 95/15;

2. Approves the request for 1996 programme expenditure authority at a level equal to new programmable resources for 1996, currently estimated at $263 million;

3. Endorses the use of the following estimates of new programmable resources from regular resources for the 1997-1999 period: $280 million for 1997; $298 million for 1988; and $319 million for 1999;

6. Also endorses the se of of the following estimates of new programmable resources from multi-bilateral funding: $15 million per year for the years 1996-1999.

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II. UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

D. Global Initiative on contraceptive requirements

1. The Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) introduced the status report on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s (document DP/1995/24/Part II). He noted that the Global Initiative had completed the work assigned to it in 1991, including the conduct of in-depth studies in 12 countries; publication of reports on the in-depth studies and other technical reports; the development of a contraceptive commodity database; and the development of a follow-up process. He said that a recent consultative group meeting on the Global Initiative had reached general consensus on four points: (a) the work of the Global Initiative should continue and its secretariat institutionalized and made an integral part of UNFPA; (b) the secretariat should conduct a systematic follow-up of activities and assist in organizing and promoting training in logistics management, an area where there was a particular need; (c) the contraceptive commodity database should be further developed to provide a more complete picture of country-level demand and supply, and include information on locally produced and/or commercially available contraceptive commodities; and (d) a global contraceptive commodity facility should be established and managed by UNFPA in order to eliminate discontinuities in the supply of contraceptives and to achieve economies of scale in the procurement of contraceptives.

2. Numerous delegations welcomed the status report and commended the accomplishments of the Global Initiative. Many expressed their strong support for continuing the Global Initiative beyond 1995 and recommended exploring ways to institutionalize the secretariat of the initiative. In this regard, several delegations recommended integrating the Global Initiative into the overall programme of UNFPA, and eventually making its secretariat a permanent part of UNFPA. One delegation suggested that such action should be reflected in the Fund's budget proposals for the 1996-1997 biennium. A number of delegations commended the work of the UNFPA Procurement Unit and emphasized the need to strengthen the Fund's procurement capability and technical capacity further in this area. Several delegations proposed that UNFPA reappraise its role in helping to safeguard and ensure the supply of contraceptives, and in meeting unmet needs, both for contraceptives and logistics management, including through collaboration with other key players in this field.

3. Several delegations underscored the importance of focusing attention on issues of quality of care and quality assurance, as well as on meeting the contraceptive needs of adolescents, youth and unmarried individuals. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of local production of contraceptive commodities and the need to stimulate local distribution and strengthen local capacity to take over and manage programmes. One delegation emphasized the need to take cultural differences fully into account in the efforts to meet contraceptive requirements of individual countries, and expressed his country's reservations regarding the availability of contraceptives to adolescents, youth and unmarried individuals.

4. In response to suggestions regarding the continuation of the work of the Global Initiative, UNFPA agreed to submit to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1995 proposals on the continuation of the Global Initiative beyond 1995, in the context of UNFPA's intercountry programme for 1996-1999, as well as on certain options on modalities for a global contraceptive commodity facility. UNFPA also agreed to reappraise its role in the area of contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs and to analyse how best to meet unmet needs in these key areas, including the need for quality assurance. This analysis would be presented in the form of a report to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 1996.

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II. UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

E. Measures taken to implement Executive Board decision 94/25 "Assistance to Rwanda"

1. Numerous delegations expressed appreciation for the UNFPA activities carried out under the ongoing country programme and especially since the national emergency began. Most spoke in favour of the flexibility shown in the activities undertaken to date and of allowing for overall expenditures of up to $7.8 million by the end of the country programme. Several delegations, however, expressed reservations about the justifications provided for the possible expenditure of up to $800,000 more than had been originally approved for the programme.

2. The Director of the Africa Division explained that given the changes in population profiles resulting from the emergency, an extensive demographic survey would be required, as would greater-than-expected investment in the reproductive health/family planning sector owing to the destruction of infrastructure.

3. On the basis of these explanations, the Executive Board approved the recommendations contained in document DP/1995/24/Part II.

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III. UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Request for additional resources for the country programme for Namibia

1. Numerous delegations supported the request for additional resources for the UNFPA country programme for Namibia. Two delegations, however, noted that the funds requested represented a substantial increase over the original amount approved. One delegation, noting that the supplementary resources were being requested for many of the activities that had been part of the country programme approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992), asked if poor planning and financial mismanagement had contributed to the low implementation of those activities. The other observed that Namibia was not a priority country for UNFPA assistance. He therefore suggested that UNFPA might need to review its criteria for priority countries and/or consider whether Namibia should be a priority country. A third delegation commented on the need to build national capacity and asked that UNFPA give consideration to that need.

2. The representative of Namibia expressed his country's gratitude to UNFPA for its support. Although Namibia was not a priority country for UNFPA assistance, the population of the country was growing at a rapid pace. He said that the objectives of the programme remained valid. He identified adolescent pregnancy and gender insensitivities as major concerns of the Government and stressed the importance of information, education and communication (IEC) activities in that regard. He observed that population factors were integral components of development and noted that his Government was moving towards elaborating a population policy.

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3. The Director of the Africa Division thanked delegations for their support. She noted that the funding level requested for the original country programme had been conservative because Namibia was not a priority country and because the absorptive capacity of the new nation had not yet been demonstrated. She stressed, however, that its needs in the area of population warranted the level of UNFPA assistance requested. Although Namibia had a relatively high per capita income, she observed that a highly skewed income distribution was concealed behind the apparent wealth, with a large majority of the people receiving only a small percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP). She emphasized that the Government was strongly committed to the acceleration of the population programme and that programme implementation was better than anticipated, both substantively and financially - 77 per cent of the approved funds had been expended during the first three years of the programme. Supplementary funds were needed to strengthen the national reproductive health and family planning programme; initiate IEC and gender, population and development activities; formulate a national population policy; develop human resources; and build national capacity.

4. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) pointed out that the request for additional resources was in keeping with the recommendations of the mid-term review of the country programme and that Namibia seemed an ideal candidate for UNFPA assistance in view of the Executive Board's emphasis on the need to increase resources to the Africa region. Moreover, Namibia clearly needed and wanted UNFPA support and had the capacity to spend effectively the funds allocated to it.

5. The Executive Board approved the request for additional funding authority for the UNFPA country programme for Namibia as contained in document DP/1995/28.

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IV. UNFPA/UNDP: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199

1. In his introduction, the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of UNDP outlined a number of policy, programme and administrative measures taken by the organization during the past year to implement General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199. Action had been taken at two levels: first, individually by UNDP on provisions of the resolutions that had a direct bearing on the work of the organization, such as the programme approach, national execution, decentralization and delegation of authority, common training, and the country strategy note (CSN); and secondly, in conjunction with partner organizations through the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) on aspects of the resolution that had implications for the United Nations development system as a whole, such as the resident coordinator system, harmonization of programming cycles and common premises and services.

2. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA, in his introduction, noted the close linkage between the Fund's Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise and the programme approach. He said the PRSD exercise included a comprehensive analysis of the country's population situation and ensured that all those active in the population field in a particular country were consulted during the strategy-development process. The UNFPA technical support services/country support team system was instrumental in the process, providing the necessary technical and analytical guidance at the country level. He noted that the Fund made increasing use of national execution, as well as of national expertise whenever available. Inadequate national capacity and financial reporting were among the problems the Fund had

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encountered in national execution. The Fund continued efforts to decentralize project approval authority to the field and had extended total programme approval authority, on a trial basis, to 12 countries.

3. Several delegations noted the substantial progress made by both organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199. The common format of the reports was welcomed.

4. The interest shown and work accomplished on the CSN was particularly encouraging. One delegation asked if a common format could be developed for the CSNs. Some speakers, while supporting the principle of the CSN and citing its usefulness as a tool for strengthening the resident coordinator system, sought assurances that its preparation would remain a national choice, as intended by the General Assembly. One delegation questioned its value to countries with low indicative planning figures. Another asked for a progress report on the formulation of the CSN at the country level, as a means of examining the usefulness of the process. UNFPA was asked if the CSN had helped it to integrate population strategies at the country level.

5. Delegations sought specific information on the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services in national execution. With reference to UNFPA, several delegations sought clarification on the role of specialized agencies in national execution following the International Conference on Population and Development.

6. Further information was also sought about the use of the Resident Coordinator system and experience with the programme approach, especially with regard to the under-delivery associated with the mechanism in one country.

7. The efforts of both organizations in decentralization were supported, with some speakers asking for assurances on accountability.

8. The agreement reached by JCGP on widening the pool for resident coordinator appointments was appreciated. It was hoped that contributing organizations would put their best candidates forward. A question was raised as to how organizations contributing to the pool ensured a smooth transition for returning staff.

9. Other comments related to the prospects for strengthening databases within UNDP for new recipient countries, encouragement of a more strategic role for the Executive Board in the country programming process, noting the action taken by the UNICEF Executive Board in that regard, and a request for a compilation and examination of local costs, including local services.

10. Several delegations noted the lack of reference to monitoring and evaluation in the UNDP document. Moreover, more substantive reporting was asked for the future, particularly with regard to problems faced in implementation of the resolutions, especially at the country level. In order for the Economic and Social Council to provide guidance to UNDP and UNFPA, it was also suggested that in the future, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF consider drawing up one common report, perhaps through the JCGP.

11. In response to the points raised, the Assistant Administrator informed the Executive Board that over 40 per cent of resident representatives had experience with other United Nations organizations during their career. He regretted that no special reference was being made to evaluation and monitoring but noted that some progress had been made in terms of harmonization of evaluation and monitoring among United Nations organizations. A detailed account on progress within those fields was included in the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council. He also informed the Board about the efforts presently being undertaken within UNDP to develop an efficient information management system, one obvious precondition for a successful decentralization process within the organization.

12. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

95/17. UNFPA/UNDP: Reports to the Economic and Social Council: Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199

The Executive Board

1. Transmits the reports from the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council together with the comments of the Executive Board;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to ensure that future reports on the implementation of the triennial policy review address more thoroughly problems and opportunities that have been identified, particularly at the field level, and contain any appropriate recommendations and requests for guidance from the Executive Board;

3. Further requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, together with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, to consider producing a common report on the implementation of the triennial policy review for both the UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF Executive Boards, which should contain both a common section and sections by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, respectively.

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IV. UNFPA/UNDP: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

B. United Nations Development Programme

1. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), in introducing document DP/1995/30/Add.3, underlined the importance to UNDP inherent in the outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development and outlined measures that were being taken by UNDP in that regard. He stressed that all three United Nations Conferences - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, IPCD and WSSD - did provide a lot of new insight as regarded the need for a new approach to development; the need for integration of enviromental concerns into economics; the importance of empowering women and of providing education to girls; the need to rethink conventional models of economic growth so as to pay more attention to the needs of the poor.

2. UNDP had prepared an action plan for ICPD follow-up, he continued, which highlighted its role in helping to move the Cairo outcome into mainstream policy dialogue and to take account of the development implication of population dynamics. Follow-up actions included the following: in-house review of policies and programmes to bring them in line with the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action; training and sensitization of UNDP staff on the messages emerging from the Conference; active participation in the ICPD Inter-Agency Task Force; joint agency follow-up initiatives; and articulation of ICPD follow-up with that of other major and recent United Nations conferences. With regard to the follow-up to WSSD, he outlined the explicit responsibilities assigned to UNDP by the WSSD Programme of Action. He emphasized that the work of UNDP would be demand-driven and tailored to local needs. A strategy paper entitled "From poverty to equity", which emphasized the need to make the follow-up to WSSD the organization's main focus, had been sent to all resident representatives. Another paper entitled "Beyond Copenhagen" was also available.

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3. With regard to the role of UNDP in follow-up to ICPD, one delegation, on behalf of others, emphasized the need for UNDP to integrate population issues fully into its development strategy, with coordination at the country level through the resident coordinator. UNDP was also asked to cooperate fully with the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis in carrying out the work related to the Commission on Population and Development.

4. One speaker noted that the follow-up to WSSD could be an occasion for UNDP to clarify further its priorities and sharpen its focus. Another commented that UNDP should continue to concentrate on poverty eradication, particularly in helping countries to formulate national strategies against poverty. One delegation suggested that UNDP report back to the Executive Board on follow-up to WSSD at the first regular session of 1996.

5. The Associate Administrator, in response, said plans for follow-up to the two conferences fitted well into the four focus areas of UNDP and thus would be integrated into existing programmes. He reiterated that the outcomes of both ICPD and WSSD were of vital importance to the future work of UNDP. He explained that document DP/1995/30/Add.3 had been produced well in advance of the Executive Board's annual session and therefore did not include all details of recent action taken, as did the two papers mentioned above. However, supplementary materials were now available to delegations. In his view, UNDP had a specific comparative advantage in the follow-up to WSSD in view of its mandate for sustainable human development and intersectoral focus, particularly in providing support for the creation of macroeconomic frameworks, governance, national strategies for poverty eradication, government participatory mechanisms, credit schemes, and sustainable livelihoods. In response to a request for further information about the inter-agency task forces referred to in the report, he explained that the Secretary-General would introduce the proposal at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 1995 during the coordination segment since it was part of his own report, to which UNDP had given inputs.

6. The Executive Board took note of sections II and III of the reports to the Economic and Social Council (DP/1995/24/Part. III and DP/1995/30/Add.3) and transmitted them, together with the comments of the Board, to the Economic and Social Council.

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IV. UNFPA/UNDP: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Executive Board decided to hold one discussion on these two sections of the item. Several delegations expressed overall satisfaction with the reports while some asked for more substance and information on problems faced, for which the Economic and Social Council could provide guidance. Others underlined the key role of the General Assembly and Council in defining the responsibilities of the organizations in follow-up to ICPD and WSSD. One speaker asked whether there was any duplication between UNDP and UNFPA in the follow-up to ICPD. Discussion specific to UNFPA and UNDP, respectively, follows.

A. United Nations Population Fund

2. The Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) of UNFPA pointed out in his introduction to document DP/1995/24 (Part III) that one of the primary concerns of UNFPA in the follow-up to ICPD was to adjust its country programmes to bring them better in line with the ICPD Programme of Action. He noted the progress made by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its working groups. He further noted that, as proposed by the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-eighth session, UNFPA would be responsible for reporting, on an annual basis, on programme experience in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action at the country level. He reiterated the UNFPA intention to cooperate with NGOs in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, taking into account the earlier comments made by members of the Executive Board on that issue. With regard to the follow-up to the WSSD, he said that UNFPA was pleased that the Programme of Action of the WSSD had endorsed the goals of the ICPD. At the international level, the Fund would continue to work to further develop the 20/20-concept, in close collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF and within the framework as adopted in Copenhagen. He pledged UNFPA support for the development of a broad United

Nations system-wide framework for the follow-up to all major international conferences and informed the Executive Board of efforts under way in the United Nations system on the issue.

3. Most delegations welcomed UNFPA efforts in the follow-up to ICPD and WSSD, and in particular its coordinating role in the follow-up to ICPD. Many delegations also stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration and the comparative advantages of each organization in the follow-up to both conferences.

4. On the issue of a separate executive board for UNFPA, several delegations noted that the matter would be further discussed at the Economic and Social Council in June/July 1995. One delegation commented that the report on the follow-up to ICPD did not refer to General Assembly resolution 49/127 on international migration and development. He also questioned the reference in the report on the follow-up to the ICPD to draft document E/CN.9/1995/L.3/Add.1 on the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development, noting that the draft document did not properly reflect the provisions spelled out in General Assembly resolution 49/128 on the renaming of the Commission.

5. The Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) thanked the members of the Executive Board for their constructive comments on the reports. He noted that the lack of substance in the reports was due primarily to problems of timing and planning, but added that the UNFPA report should be read in conjunction with document DP/1995/25 on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD. He expected the reports of the four working groups of the inter-agency task force to be available by the time the Economic and Social Council met in June/July 1995. He informed the Executive Board that a separate report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 19/127 would be submitted to the Council in June/July 1995, prepared for the Secretary-General by the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. He also reiterated the UNFPA commitment to cooperate fully with the other United Nations agencies and organizations in the follow-up to ICPD and WSSD.

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V. UNFPA/UNDP: HARMONIZATION OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS

1. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Finance and Administration of UNDP introduced the item on behalf of UNFPA and UNDP. He informed the Board that there was progress with regard to harmonization of financial statements under the auspices of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Finance and Budget) (CCAQ (FB)), with a third and last working group meeting scheduled for late June 1995. Consultations among UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF on the harmonization of budgets were under way, with a preliminary review on the identification of differences among existing budget presentations already completed. He explained that the outcome of the proposals in response to the management study of UNICEF submitted to the UNICEF Executive Board at its third regular session of 1995, in particular with reference to the recommendations to integrate programme and administrative budgets for UNICEF country offices, would affect the joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF exercise, including the time frame. The Assistant Administrator stated that regular progress reports on harmonization of budgets would be made available to the Board and suggested that a further review take place at the first regular session 1996.

2. One delegation noted the good progress made in the development of common accounting standards for the organizations of the United Nations system and suggested measures, later supported by another delegation, for enhanced harmonization of budgets and accounts: (a) similar terminology in distinguishing among core, programme support and extrabudgetary costs; (b) similar definitions in determining overhead costs; (c) easy-to-find information on the number of all posts; (d) common treatment of income from all sources; (e) presentation of biennial budget expenditures on an object of expenditure basis; (f) similar sequence in all three budget documents, with information in a tabular form; and (g) development of a prototype budget document for use by all three agencies.

3. One delegation, supported by others, expressed deep concern about the lack of substance in the report, underlining the need to know what had

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happened at the meetings cited, particularly in light of the reporting requirement specified by the General Assembly in resolution 49/216 (e). That delegation, whose State Auditors had visited the three organizations, also stated that it would be helpful to know the direction that would be taken following the joint review, questioned the need for an outside consultant given in-house expertise, and noted that the report had not been transmitted to the Executive Board and to the Economic and Social Council through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution. The importance of harmonized budgets to both donor and recipient countries was emphasized, with concern expressed that varying administrative budgets made it difficult to determine where funds were being utilized. One delegation said the absence of a more comprehensive report was particularly regrettable in light of the upcoming trienniel policy review and requested that intersessional briefings be held on harmonization matters.

4. The Assistant Administrator responded that efforts had been made to keep the document brief and succinct. In response to a question, he explained that it would make good sense to take into account the outcome of the discussion on the UNICEF management review by the UNICEF Executive Board, as issues raised in the review would also impact on the potential to harmonize budget presentations. UNICEF was developing proposals in response to a specific request by its Board for review in September.

5. The Assistant Administrator referred to a past statement made by the Chairman of ACABQ to the General Assembly, in which he recognized that the specific budget presentations depended on the structure, size, procedures of legislative bodies, and nature of its programme. He also indicated that, while similarities existed among the United Nations, UNDP and UNFPA, there were many dissimilarities, in particular with UNICEF, which rendered the harmonization exercise even more difficult.

6. Concurrently, the Assistant Administrator requested some understanding for the fact that UNDP has been heavily involved in a major downsizing effort, which would be elaborated at the third regular session of the Executive Board during the review of the biennial budget proposals for 1996-1997.

7. The Assistant Administrator also emphasized that the prime objective in preparing a budget should be to set forth the budgets in a manner which was clear and transparent to the governing body concerned. In that regard, he pointed out that UNDP had made considerable effort to improve the presentation and transparency of its budgets. This had been acknowledged by the Executive Board in past sessions.

8. Under the circumstances, the Assistant Administrator indicated that it was not realistic for UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming meeting on additional progress on the status of the harmonization exercise with regard to budget presentations.

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VI. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS AND THE FUTURE OF UNDP

B. Related matters: the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

1. The Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa introduced the report on the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) (DP/1995/35). She outlined the elements of the programme, citing the commitments of both African countries and their development partners. Results to date had been mixed. Africa had not yet been able to move towards achieving the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth envisaged by the compact. She noted that the international community had not yet met the goals of a $75 million diversification fund. The Assistant Administrator also outlined UNDP work in Africa in the fields of poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, environmental protection and food security, as well as UNDP involvement in international initiatives and conferences relating to furthering economic development in Africa.

2. Several delegations emphasized that while some overall progress had been seen, there was an urgent need to support development efforts in Africa, particularly in those countries classified as least developed countries (LDCs). France, on behalf of the European Union, underlined the priority accorded to Africa, which received one half of the Union's development assistance. Support was expressed for the work of the United Nations and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, especially through the resident coordinator system. With reference to UN-NADAF, delegations underlined the important role of UNDP in capacity development, policy formulation, and in good governance and popular participation. It was essential for programmes to be effective and relevant.

UNDP was urged to maintain a country-driven approach, keeping in mind the priorities of recipient countries.

3. Many speakers referred to the urgent need to increase resource flows to the region, especially in support of national strategies. One delegation asked about the possibilities for enhancing the mobilization of non-core resources. Delegations highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional capacities, improved governance, human resource development, work in rural areas, private sector development, South-South cooperation, training, and encouragement of the participation of non-governmental organizations, with some speakers elaborating on initiatives undertaken by their own Governments. The negative effects of debt-servicing remained a serious problem for African countries, with more debt relief needed. Disadvantages in international trade and drought and desertification also remained specific problems for the region.

4. The Assistant Administrator thanked the Executive Board for its positive comments and suggestions and support for the work of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa. She informed the Board that the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development offered advice on the implementation of UN-NADAF, and would also provide inputs to various initiatives, such as that of the Secretary-General through the Administrative Committee on Coordination. She cited three reasons for the sharp decline in expenditures in Africa during the fifth programming cycle: (a) a high level of expenditure shown for the first year, owing to the practice of front-loading and borrowing against the next programming cycle, which had to be compensated for in 1994 in the context of a reduced indicative planning figure (IPF); (b) the change of UNDP focus to sustainable human development through the programme approach entailed lengthy design and formulation process; and (c) severe circumstances and lack of capacity in some countries.

5. The Assistant Administrator outlined the support UNDP provided to 26 countries in the area of governance. UNDP would participate in the high-level segment of ECOSOC on the development of Africa, including the implementation of UN-NADAF, and had contributed to the report prepared for the session by the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. A good understanding had been reached between UNDP and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund regarding the respective activities of the three organizations in Africa. In 1995, five round-table conferences had been held, including a highly successful one for Rwanda, in which $600 million had been mobilized. National Human Development Reports were under preparation in several African countries.

6. The UNDP Resident Representative in Zaire noted the involvement of UNDP in the preparation of country strategy notes (CSNs) in 15 African countries, a useful tool for strengthening the resident coordinator system.

7. The UNDP Resident Representative in Senegal outlined the resource mobilization strategy undertaken in that country. It included UNDP focus on the development of national strategies primarily in the areas of poverty alleviation and capacity-building for economic development management.

8. The Resident Representative in Rwanda gave an overview of UNDP assistance to the devastated public sector in Rwanda following the events of 1994. Massive efforts were needed to restore national capacity, including rehabilitation of public buildings and the public service system, and training of civil service. He thanked donors who had contributed to the Trust Fund for Rwanda.

9. The Resident Representative in Uganda said that country-specific experience in the programme approach had been utilized in that country. Results of a recent review of all ongoing projects was a clustering of projects which had the same objectives and a plan to create a common training programme for their personnel. Clear entry points for external assistance needed to be identified, an area where the CSN could be a useful tool.

10. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (DP/1995/35).